

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EEC, MT
SUBJ: EC STUDY OF MALTA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

REF: BRUSSELS 12932

IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EC COMMISSION DESK OFFICER FOR MALTA, MISSION OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT TO DATE CONTEMPLATED EC STUDY OF MALTA'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS (REF) STILL HAS NOT GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND. RECALLING PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES OVER NAMING AN EXPERT STUDY GROUP (TO HAVE BEEN HEADED BY A FORMER FRG CABINET MEMBER), SOURCE SAID THAT THE COMMISSION, IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID A REPETITION OF THESE PROBLEMS AND IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS DESIRE NOT TO BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDY, HAS SUGGESTED A PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM FROM HAMBURG UNDERTAKE THE STUDY RATHER THAN TRY TO FIND ANOTHER PERSON OF INTERNATIONAL STATURE. ALTHOUGH MALTESE PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF HAS ACCEPTED THE HAMBURG FIRM, THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF DISAGREEMENTS OVER FIRM'S CONTRACT,

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ONE OF THE POINTS AT ISSUE BEING HOW AND WHEN THE FIRM'S EXPERTS WILL BE PAID. SOURCE FELT THAT THESE CONTRACT DIFFERENCES WILL SOON BE RESOLVED SO THAT A FIRST TEAM CAN GO TO MALTA IN JUNE. IF ALL GOES AS EXPECTED, A SECOND STUDY TEAM SHOULD, HE SAID, FOLLOW IN SEPTEMBER.

HINTON

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Message Attributes

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